THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Celular System is one of the technologies that is being considered for providing telephones in the rural areas.

(b) The Cellular System envisages provision of telephones by means of radio instead of using long overhead wires for providing telephone. This technology was initially used for urban areas in other countries and now this is being extended to rural areas for providing fast, reliable and fault free telephone service.

(c) Provision of telephone facilities in the rural areas is a priority item. Cellular technology is one of the various means with which this can be achieved. The actual technology to be used will depend upon techno-economic studies, of individual cases.

Setting up New Refineries in Andhra Coastal Towns

2701. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increase in the production of Oil and Natural Gas in the country under different new projects, there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of new refineries;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to set up any new refineries in one of the Andhra Coastal towns; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Applications for Allotment of Gas Agencies and Petrol Pumps

2702. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:
SHRI SAGAR RAYKA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications for allotment of LPG agencies and petrol pumps have been received from various parts of Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra and Delhi during the period from 1st January, 1985 to 29th February, 1988;

(b) how many of the applicants are (1) women (2) War widows (3) Ex-servicemen (4) Deaf (5) Dumb (6) Blind (7) disabled persons or belong to the (8) Scheduled Castes/Tribes (9) Backward/Minority Communities; and

(c) the details of the gas agencies and pertol pumps given during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) In view of the fact that during the period between January 1, 1985 and February 29, 1988 around 340 locations for LPG distributorships and Retail Outlet dealerships were advertised by the Oil Industry and several applications are usually received against each advertisement, the effort involved in compilation of the information would not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be served;